

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T GENEVA 03175

EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: WARNKE/EARLE - SEMENOV/SHCHUKIN PRIVATE MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 1978 (SALT TWO 1639)

1. AT FEBRUARY 27 PRIVATE MEETING WARNKE REVIEWED STATUS OF MAIN UNRESOLVED ISSUES. HE NOTED POSITIONS WERE FAR APART ON PROPOSED EXCEPTION FOR SINGLE-RV ICBM, BUT SOME PROGRESS MADE IN DEFINING NEW TYPES OF ICBMS, AND THERE MAY NOT BE IRRECONCILABLE GAP. HE NOTED SOME PROGRESS RE NON-CIRCUMVENTION, BUT SAID SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS NOT REPEAT NOT A BASIS FOR RESOLVING ISSUE. HE NOTED BALL IN U.S. COURT RE ALCMED HEAVY BOMBERS, BUT IN SOVIET COURT RE HEAVY BOMBER VARIANTS. PRE-NOTIFICATION OF ICBM FLIGHT TESTS AND CRUISE MISSILE DEFINITIONS WERE UNDER DISCUSSION, WHILE BACKFIRE WAS NOT BEFORE US. HE THOUGHT PART OF CRUISE MISSILE DEFINITION ISSUE COULD BE RESOLVED IN SALT THREE. WARNKE DEFERRED ON AGGREGATES PENDING SEMENOV'S COMMENTS.

2. SEMENOV REFERRED TO BREZHNEV "POSITIVE" COMMENTS ON SALT FEBRUARY 24 AT SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM, INCLUDING
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MENTION THAT SIGNING OF SALT TWO TO BE FOLLOWED BY NEXT PHASE OF STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION. SEMENOV SAID SIDES SHOULD ATTEMPT TO FORMULATE SATISFACTORY NON-CIRCUMVENTION PROVISION, NTED TECHNICAL DISCUSSION ON CRUISE MISSILE RANGE, AND SUGGESTED DIFFERENCES RE CRUISE MISSILE DEFINITION BE OMITTED FROM CURRENT DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION IN SALT THREE. HE SAID DOOR IS OPEN FOR ACCEPTABLE

RESOLUTION OF PRE-NOTIFICATION ISSUE, AND SAID SIDES SHOULD UNTIE THE KNOT IN ARTICLE II.3 (HEAVY BOMBER DEFINITION).

3. SEMENOV THEN MADE LENGTHY DEFENSE OF CURRENT SOVIET POSITION ON AGGREGATE REDUCTIONS AND TIMING. WARNKE SAID SOVIET POSITION WAS UNSATISFACTORY. IF THERE WERE PROBLEMS RE DISMANTLING PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA, THESE COULD BE CONSIDERED, BUT REACTION OF REST OF WORLD TO CURRENT SOVIET POSITION WOULD BE "TOO LITTLE TOO LATE".
EARLE

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NNN

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